

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:	S. Fujii et al.	CONF. NO.:	3017
U.S. SERIAL NO.:	10/068,414	EXAMINER:	B. Menberu
FILED:	February 6, 2002	GROUP:	2625
FOR:	IMAGE SENDING METHOD AND IMAGE SENDING DEVICE		

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Applicants are in receipt of the Office Action dated May 1, 2007 of the above-referenced application. Applicants respond to the Office Action as follows.

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-16, and 18-20 are pending in the application.

Applicants' claimed invention is directed to an image sending method and an image sending device, in which a **sending mode** is selected from plural types of sending modes (such as fax mode, scan mode, or email mode), and then an **image quality** is selected (such as "standard," "fine," or "super fine") (see, e.g., specification at page 11, 2nd and 3rd paragraphs). Finally, a **resolution** is automatically set so that it corresponds to the selected sending mode and the selected image quality.

As claimed, a resolution is set based on the selected sending mode and the selected image quality. Therefore, it is not necessary for the user to set a resolution corresponding to each of the sending modes. It is noted that the claimed invention distinguishes between "image quality" and "resolution," where image quality commonly is defined as vividness of hue or color, which can be distinguished by a user based on physical appearance (e.g., selecting "standard," "fine," or "super fine"). In contrast, resolution commonly refers to a process or capability of making

distinguishable the individual parts of an object, or a measure of the sharpness of an image or the fineness by which a device can produce or record the image. According to the claimed invention, a resolution is set based on the selected sending mode and the selected image quality.

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-16, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,488,483 to Murayama et al. ("Murayama") in view of U.S. Patent 6,195,428 to Maruyama. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Regarding the rejection of independent claims 1, 7, and 13 over the proposed combination of Murayama in view of Maruyama, the Murayama and Maruyama references, whether taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest selecting and setting a sending mode from plural types of sending modes based on sending destination information which is inputted or selected by a user, where the plural types of sending modes respectively relate to different transmission protocols, "setting an image quality for the image data to be sent," and "selecting and setting a resolution corresponding to the selected image quality," as recited in independent claim 1 (*see also* independent claims 7 and 13).

Murayama teaches the ability to select either the G4 facsimile protocol or color, and also select either standard resolution (200dpi x 200dpi) or precision resolution (400dpi x 400dpi).

However, Murayama does not teach or suggest the separate steps of "setting an image quality for the image data to be sent," and "selecting and setting a resolution corresponding to the selected image quality," as claimed.

As claimed, a resolution of image data is selected from a specified range based on both the selected transmission mode and the selected image quality, where the resolution must be selected to satisfy both the selected transmission mode and the selected image quality. In other words, the claimed "resolution" and "image quality" refer to different characteristics, whereas Murayama merely teaches that a specified resolution is selected by a user. Murayama does not teach or suggest that the image data is processed based on "image quality," as claimed.